



West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Regional Update

April 22, 2013 0700 CST

- 24-hour operations included mobile air monitoring for volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. Overnight, 4 air monitoring events performed during the night shift had variable detections for NH₃ ranging from 0.1 to 1.0 ppm. Upon inspection of the equipment, it was noted the unit performed the variable readings both in the field and inside the Command Post. The unit was recalibrated and tested, yet still showed variability. The fluctuating reading has been attributed to sensor variability.
- April 21: EPA obtained written access from the City of West and West ISD to collect a total of 12 soil samples from residential easements, West ISD Schools, and a City Park in the immediate vicinity of the site. Samples were collected to evaluate the potential off-site presence of site related pesticides. A total of 12 composite soil samples were collected and submitted for pesticide/herbicide analysis. Preliminary results will be received by **Friday, April 26, 2013**.
- Re-entry activities continue for residents located in the secondary exclusion zone up to West Spring Street. Insurance adjusters and media personnel were also granted access on April 21, 2013.
- EPA OSCs attended site briefings and law enforcement/operational briefings, conducted a meeting with CSB, TCEQ, and OSHA, and coordinated with ATF, CSB, TCEQ, OSHA, DOT, the Office of the Texas State Chemist, and EPA CID on current and future site operations.
- April 21, 2013, at 1900: Union Pacific Railroad restored service to the rail line along the western border of the West Fertilizer site.
- EPA will attend a meeting for all Federal Agencies as requested by FEMA on Monday, April 22.
- April 22: Four EPA OSCs (1 of 4 OSCs to demobe site by noon April 22), 1 EPA PIO, and 5 EPA contractors (1 EPA contractor demobed Sunday PM) conducted 24-hour site operations, spaced over two shifts. One R6 CID agent is on-scene and 2 EPA National Criminal Enforcement Response Team (NCERT) agents are on-scene. The NCERT agents plan to demobe from the site by April 23.